

**Town of Milton
Town Council Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2005**

OPEN FLOOR (7:15 p.m.):

- A.) Dr. Donald Clendaniel of 201 Chandler Street – concerns regarding the stop signs installed. He asked that the 2 stop signs be removed because it is an accident waiting to happen. He would like the stop sign at Preserve on the Broadkill to remain.
- B.) Dr. Richard Greig of 326 Union Street – gave compliments to the Town regarding staff. The Finance Committee is solid and that way we see where the money goes. We hired a Town Manager who hit the street running. Good progress has been made. He would like to see the Historic Building process reviewed. The core of the Town is the old houses.
- C.) Ginny Weeks – regarding sludge removal. She asked that Council educate themselves. Creeping commercialism and “spot” zoning is the worst thing the Town can do.
- D.) Tina Thoroughgood of Catsnippers – Thanked the Town for the \$500 donation. Over 100 cats have been spayed or neutered since last June.
- E.) P.D. Camenisch – asked that the Town request mosquito spraying again. He also noted that many of the handicap ramps are not well done & asked about the ramp at Governor’s Walk; will one be put back in?
- F.) Noble Prettyman (Council) – wanted to remind/inform parents to have their children wear helmet when riding their bicycles.
- G.) Michael Hudson – stated that he lives next door to the Wayne Hudson property and his water has 300 times the allowable nitrates.

Councilwoman Betts offered a moment of silence at 7:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mayor Bushey called the roll.

PRESENT: Mayor John Bushey
Councilwoman Leah Betts
Councilman Gene Dvornick
Councilwoman Ronda Melson
Councilman Don Post
Councilman Noble Prettyman
Councilman Jerry Hudson

Others Present: Hal Godwin, Town Manager
Eric Evans, Code Enforcer
Allen Atkins, Maintenance Supervisor
Dawn Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Gina Jennings, Finance Director
William Phillips, Chief of Police
Bob Kerr, Town Engineer
Tim Willard, Town Attorney

Presentation and Approval of Minutes

Councilman Dvornick made a ***motion*** to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2005 regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Prettyman.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Hudson made a ***motion***, seconded by Councilman Dvornick to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2005 special meeting.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Committee Reports

Sewer & Water – Councilman Hudson reported that the Committee will meet next Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. at Town Hall. He noted that the letter from CABA Associates regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant was distributed with the Town Manager’s report on Friday. Councilman Hudson then asked Mr. Kerr of CABA (in the audience) some questions. Councilman Post noted that the key is to keep moving forward.

Streets & Sidewalks – Councilwoman Betts reported that after Federal and Union Streets are complete, the Committee will meet regarding sidewalks. Councilman Prettyman noted that it is anticipated that the Mulberry Street project will go out for bid on September 18. There is still one person that an easement is needed from. It is expected that the bid will be awarded in early November and work should begin in December.

Personnel/Pension – Councilwoman Melson turned the floor over to Chief Phillips to make a presentation. Chief reported that on August 13, a robbery suspect that escaped from Dewey Beach was apprehended at Park Royal by four (4) of Milton’s officers. Chief presented Derrick Harvey, Tim Hamlett, Stephen Boone, and John Collins with a certificate. He thanked them for their work. The suspect is now incarcerated. Also, all the kids involved in the Black Mafia have been locked up.

Chief then introduced Mr. Bob Maull, Student Services Coordinator for Cape Henlopen High School. Mr. Maull reported that there will be a Summit at Cape Henlopen High School on September 20, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. The topic is “Violence in Schools”.

Councilwoman Melson presented Gina Jennings with a plaque from the Finance Committee for Employee of the Quarter.

Councilwoman Melson stated that the Committee is working on the mission/vision statements for the handbook. Also, an Executive Session will be needed tonight.

Parks & Recreation – Councilman Post thanked Kathryn Greig of the Garden Club. The downtown has seen great improvement. Also, Governor’s Walk has been extended between the old hardware store and the flower shop. He asked that Eric Evans keep a close eye on it (i.e. where the trash cans are placed, etc.) Councilman Post noted that he has received a request from the Lions Club regarding the railroad ties for the train in the park. Many of the ties need replacement. Councilman Post reported that the Town received \$1500 from Sussex County Council for improvements at Milton Memorial Park. Councilman Post recommended that this money be turned over to the Lions Club for those repairs.

Mr. Greig noted on behalf of the Garden Club that they will be planting mums. If anyone can help, they were asked to call Mrs. Greig.

Economic Development – Councilman Post reported that the 501c3 is moving forward. He noted that he would like to have Teresa Poole added to the Committee.

Planning & Zoning – No report.

Board of Adjustment – John Collier reported that the applications heard at the August meeting were reported in the Code Enforcer’s Report.

Milton Development Corporation – Councilwoman Betts reported that Milton Development Committee hosted a successful Bargains on the Broadkill and Canoe and Kayak Race. She thanked everyone who participated. She also thanked Senator Adams and Representative Carey for contributing \$32,000 for the curb ramps.

Finance/Risk Management – Councilman Dvornick reported that the Finance Committee met on August 25 to review the final draft of the budget. He asked that special meeting be held on Tuesday, September 27 to approve the budget. He noted that we received three (3) website proposals. The Committee would like to award one tonight for approximately \$6,000. Also, the check signer coverage needs to be increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000. The next Committee meeting is September 22.

200th Anniversary – Councilman Prettyman noted that the Committee will hold a meeting later this month.

Police Building – Councilwoman Betts reported that the Committee is looking into two (2) places and will have another to look at soon.

Land Acquisition – No report.

Written Reports

Maintenance Reports

Councilman Prettyman made a **motion** to approve the Maintenance Reports, seconded by Councilman Post.

Councilman Hudson asked Mr. Atkins a question regarding the storm drains. Mr. Atkins noted that DelDOT took out three (3) storm drains. Also, Councilman Post noted that the island needs to be larger.

The question was called on the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Code Enforcer Report

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to approve the Code Enforcer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Prettyman.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Police Department Report

Councilman Prettyman made a **motion** to approve the Police Department Report. Councilman Hudson seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Town Manager Report

Motion was made by Councilman Prettyman to approve the Town Manager’s Report, seconded by Councilman Post.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Town Manager Godwin noted that he received a request from the Milton Arts Guild to hold an art show on October 8. Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to grant the request, seconded by Councilman Prettyman.

Motion carried – “Aye”

North Milton went to PLUS for approvals. The meeting will be September 28 at 9:45 a.m.

Correspondence

Councilwoman Melson read letters from:

- Bob Stickels: regarding recognition ceremony for firefighters, police officers, dispatchers, etc. on September 12 at 10:00 .m.
- Bob Stickels: regarding transfer tax

- Carol and Glen Moore: opposed to 1630, North Milton, Hudson annexation request

Old Business

Open Floor Regarding Stop Signs on Chandler & Behringer Avenues

With regard to Reverend Clendaniel's comments about the stop signs, Councilman Hudson suggested removing the one at the bottom of the hill and reducing the speed limit to 15 mph. Mayor Bushey referred this to the Streets & Sidewalks Committee.

Urban Planner Ed McMahon

Councilman Dvornick reported that Urban Planner Ed McMahon has been secured to do a seminar here in Milton on October 18 at 7:00 p.m. It was noted that this meeting will be a mandatory meeting for Town Council, Planning & Zoning, and Board of Adjustment. This will be a special meeting. Connie Holland and Ann Marie Townsend of the State Planning Office will be here, too.

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to hold a special meeting on October 18 for a presentation by Ed McMahon, seconded by Councilman Prettyman.

Motion carried – "Aye"

Councilman Hudson noted that he will be out of Town.

New Business

Proclamation Designating October 8 as National Wildlife Refuge Day

Councilwoman Melson read the proclamation. Mayor Bushey presented it to representative from the Primehook Refuge.

Committee Appointments

Mayor Bushey noted that Herb Dutt resigned from the Planning & Zoning Committee. Mayor Bushey appointed Richard Greig to serve until April, 2007; Carol Bruce to serve until April, 2007; and Bernice Edwards to serve until April, 2008. Also appointed to the Economic Development Committee was Teresa Poole.

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to approve the appointments. Councilman Hudson seconded the motion.

Motion carried – "Aye"

School Safety – Crossing Guard – Mariner Middle School

Councilman Prettyman reported that Dr. Stone has requested a crossing guard at Mariner Middle School. He asked how Milton wants to do it. It pays \$45.00 an hour for two (2) hours.

Councilwoman Betts made a **motion** that the Town bill the school for the crossing guard, seconded by Councilman Post.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Councilman Prettyman will submit for consideration at the Cape Henlopen School District School Board meeting on Thursday night.

Transfer Tax

Councilman Bushey briefly reported on this. He thinks Council should have the Town Manager contact Senators and Representatives that we oppose this.

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** seconded by Councilman Prettyman to handle this issue the same way we handled the Recycling Bill.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Cost Benefit Analysis for Annexations

Councilwoman Betts asked Town Manager Godwin what has been done with regard to the cost benefit analysis.

Town Manager Godwin reported that at the August 4 meeting, he was asked to work on this. He contacted Connie Holland of the State Planning Office and she told him to contact the City of Dover. He talked to Dawn Melson at the City of Dover. Dawn suggested he talk to Urban Partners in Pennsylvania. Urban Partners explained the process and said contact Tony DePrima. The cost can range from \$7,000 to \$20,000 depending on the depth of the research. Mr. Godwin also spoke to Jim Galvin of Davis, Bowen, and Friedel.

Councilman Post recommended/suggested that Town Council not annex anymore properties until the cost/benefit analysis is complete.

Councilman Post made a **motion** to do a cost benefit analysis prior to anymore annexations into Town for 60 days so Council knows what to charge developers. This should be done by an independent firm with no ties to Town. Councilwoman Betts seconded the motion.

Councilman Hudson asked Mr. Godwin if he was given any completion times. Mr. Godwin noted that he was not.

The question was called on the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Any Other Business

Letter from Sussex County regarding a parcel of property owned by William Wright requesting rezoning to Commercial (parcel is located in Milton's growth area)

Councilman Post made a **motion** to send a letter of no objection to a conditional use, seconded by Councilman Dvornick.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Ethics Issue

Mayor Bushey noted that the Town received a question regarding ethics. Town Manager is to contact Janet Wright about this matter.

Proposed Budget

Mayor Bushey asked where the budget was. Councilman Dvornick stated that the Finance Committee has asked for a special meeting on September 27. Town Manager will get the proposed budget to Town Council tomorrow morning.

Lions Club Request

Councilman Post made a **motion** for Parks & Recreation Committee to pay bills up to \$1500 for train repairs. Councilman Prettyman seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Town Website

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to award/accept the Finance Committee's recommend to award the webpage design, not to exceed \$6,000. The motion was seconded by Councilman Prettyman.

Councilman Hudson asked what is included. Councilman Dvornick responded that it is designed so the Town can update. Councilman Post asked that it include a link to the Chamber website. He asked if it will include the Charter, Comprehensive Plan, etc. It was noted that it will.

The question was called on the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Increase Bond Coverage

Councilman Dvornick made a **motion** to accept the recommend from the Finance Committee to increase the bond coverage from \$25,000 to \$50,000 for check signers. The increase in insurance will not exceed \$400. Councilman Post seconded the motion.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Bernice Edwards – Regarding Holly Lake

Bernice Edwards reported that there will be a meeting at H. O. Brittingham Elementary School on September 7, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Residents in Holly Lake Trailer Park have been given one (1) year to relocate. This is an opportunity to be proactive and help relocate these residents even though it is not currently located in Town limits. Councilman Prettyman stated that every effort should be made to keep these kids in the Cape Henlopen School District.

Adjournment

Councilman Prettyman made a ***motion*** to go into Executive Session at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Councilman Hudson.

Motion carried – “Aye”

Council went into Executive Session

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Johnson
Administrative Assistant

dmbj:9/13/05